



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 25, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORTS – ORANGE
COUNTY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION/HARBOR CITY CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION'S FOUR SITES – PLACENTIA GROUP HOME,
FULLERTON GROUP HOME, EMANCIPATION INSTITUTE, AND
CARSON FACILITIES**

We have completed a review of the four group homes operated by Orange County Children's Foundation (OCCF)/Harbor City Children's Foundation (HCCF), Placentia Group Home (OCCF-Placentia), Fullerton Group Home (OCCF-Fullerton), Emancipation Institute (OCCF-Emancipation) and Carson Facility (HCCF-Carson). Each home is licensed with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

OCCF-Placentia and OCCF-Fullerton are six-bed facilities located in Orange County that provide care for males ages 9–17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, OCCF-Placentia was providing services for two Los Angeles County DCFS children and four Orange County children. OCCF-Fullerton was providing services for three DCFS children and three Orange County children.

OCCF-Emancipation is a six-bed facility located in the Fourth Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 9-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, OCCF-Emancipation was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

HCCF-Carson is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 9-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, HCCF-Carson was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to verify that the four agencies are providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues. The monitoring visit includes an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each of the respective homes at the time of the monitoring visit. The interviews with the residents are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the group homes and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

All four group homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, OCCF-Fullerton and OCCF-Emancipation need to improve their Needs and Services Plans.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our reports with the agency's management. The agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

**Orange County Children's Foundation
Placentia Group Home
1808 Stanley Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870
(714) 986-9451
License No.: 306000534
Classification Level: 11**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Orange County Children's Foundation Placentia (OCCF-Placentia) is located in a residential neighborhood, is nicely maintained, and blends in well with other houses on the street. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

Furnishings throughout the house are in excellent condition. The bedrooms are neat, clean, and personalized by the residents. Resident bathrooms are clean with all fixtures in proper working condition.

The agency has recreational equipment that is age appropriate, in good condition, and accessible to the residents. There are sufficient recreational activities for both indoor and outdoor play. Each resident is provided with a desk and chair in the study area. There are books, magazines, and a computer available to the residents.

The kitchen is orderly and clean, the cabinets are well stocked, and the perishable items are properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met the population criteria as outlined in OCCF-Placentia's program statement and received initial assessments that were thorough, comprehensive, specific and attainable.

The residents and their authorized representatives are participants in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plans (NSP).

Neither resident required a Quarterly Report at the time.

The residents are provided with individual and group therapy on a weekly basis. The needs, goals and objectives noted in the NSP indicate that the therapist has established a therapeutic relationship with the residents and is working in an individualized and focused manner to assist the resident's in addressing their personal psychological challenges.

In addition, there is a behavior modification program in place, which identifies target behavior goals and rewards daily good behavior. Achievement of the "target" over a period of time is rewarded with special outings, additional privileges, and increases in weekly allowances.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents are enrolled in school and both files contained current report cards. Neither resident required an Individualized Education Plan. The residents reported that the agency's administrators advocate for them and encourage them sufficiently.

The residents indicated that they are provided with educational support and sufficient daily cognitive stimulation. The residents have age appropriate expectations regarding their personal hygiene and chores, which is part of their Daily Living Skills training.

Neither resident is employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

OCCF-Placentia provides sufficient opportunities for residents to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety of activities and stated that the agency follows through with the posted schedule of activities. OCCF-Placentia utilizes local community organizations for recreation and program resources. The residents have ample free time to use as they wish.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were two Los Angeles County residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there are no Los Angeles County residents on psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to OCCF-Placentia administration, neither Los Angeles County resident is prescribed psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents felt that they are treated with dignity and respect, discipline is fair and reasonable, and that they are free to choose whether to participate in religious services. They are provided with adequate medical and dental care and allowed to telephone their Children's Social Workers, attorneys, and family members.

OCCF-Placentia supports and encourages visits with approved persons inclusive of providing transportation, assisting with scheduling and supervising the visits.

The residents are free of interference with daily living functions including getting water or snacks, and describe the food as good.

Neither resident is prescribed psychotropic medication.

The residents stated that they feel safe and cared for and report an overall satisfaction with the agency.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

OCCF-Placentia provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

OCCF-Placentia provides its residents with a fair minimum allowance. Residents can increase their weekly allowance by maintaining good behavior, making appropriate use of their daily cognitive stimulation time, completing their weekly chores, and/or completing paid chores.

Both residents have a life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Orange County Children's Foundation
Fullerton Group Home
1572 Concord Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92831
(714) 525-7113
License No.: 306000110
Classification Level: 11**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Orange County Children's Foundation, Fullerton (OCCF-Fullerton) is located in a residential neighborhood, is nicely maintained, and blends in well with other homes on the street. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

Furnishings throughout the house are in excellent condition. The bedrooms are neat, clean and personalized by the residents. Resident bathrooms are clean with all fixtures in proper working condition.

Recreational equipment is age appropriate, in good condition, and accessible to the residents. The backyard is well kept and offers additional recreation and relaxation opportunities. There are sufficient recreational activities for both indoor and outdoor play. There are books, magazines, and a computer available to the residents.

The kitchen is orderly and clean with well stocked cabinets. The food appears of sufficient quality and is properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met the population criteria as outlined in OCCF-Fullerton's program statement. One resident received an initial diagnostic assessment and the other resident had been in the facility less than thirty days.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) for the one resident is not complete in that observable behaviors necessary to reach the goals are not noted in a specific or measurable manner. The resident was involved in the development of his NSP which he and his authorized representative signed.

The quarterly report for the resident is comprehensive and focuses on the goals noted in his NSP.

OCCF-Fullerton provides sufficient therapeutic and treatment services. The residents are provided with individual and group therapy on a weekly basis.

In addition, there is a behavior modification program in place which identifies "target" behavior goals and rewards daily good behavior. Achievement of the "target" over a period of time is rewarded with special outings, additional privileges, and increases in weekly allowances.

Recommendations

1. **OCCF-Fullerton management develop Needs and Services Plans that are specific and measurable.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Both residents participate in regular classes and do not require Individualized Education Plans. The educational file for the resident recently placed was not complete but the other resident's file contained a current report. The resident with the incomplete file reported that the agency's administrators advocate for him and, at his request, are currently in the process of enrolling him in the Orange County school he formerly attended.

The residents reported that they are provided with educational support and sufficient daily cognitive stimulation. The agency provides the residents with lessons in daily living, survival, and self-help skills.

Residents have the opportunity to participate in vocational training programs. In addition, OCCF-Fullerton enrolls the residents in emancipation training programs offered by the Department of Children and Family Services in cooperation with the Community College Foundation.

One resident indicated that he has worked a part time job and is permitted to manage his own money. Working residents are encouraged to open a savings account.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

OCCF-Fullerton provides sufficient opportunities for residents to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety of activities and stated that the agency follows through with the posted schedule of activities. OCCF-Fullerton utilizes local community organizations for recreation and program resources and residents have ample free time to use as they wish.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were three Los Angeles County residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents on prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to OCCF-Fullerton's Administrator, none of the Los Angeles County residents are prescribed psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**Method of assessment – Resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents felt that they are treated with dignity and respect, discipline is fair and reasonable, and that they are free to choose whether or not to participate in religious services. The residents stated that they are provided with medical and dental care on a routine and an as-needed basis and can telephone their Children's Social Workers, attorneys, and family members. In addition, they reported that the agency supports and encourages visits with approved persons.

The residents are appropriately free of interference with daily living functions and describe the food as good.

Neither resident is prescribed psychotropic medication.

Both residents stated that they feel safe and cared for in the home and report an overall satisfaction with the agency.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

OCCF-Fullerton provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The agency provides its residents with a fair minimum weekly allowance which they can increase by maintaining good behavior, making appropriate use of their daily cognitive stimulation time; completing their weekly chores and/or completing paid chores.

The agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

One resident has a life book; the other resident is new to the placement.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Orange County Children's Foundation
Emancipation Institute
1600 220th Street
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 320-0195
License No.: 198203350
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Orange County Children's Foundation operates four facilities of which one is the Emancipation Institute (OCCF-Emancipation). The home is attractive and blends well with other homes in the neighborhood.

The interior of the home is neat, clean, and well organized. The décor provides excellent living conditions and a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are well furnished and decorated nicely. Resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable and personalized to each child's desire. Many of the residents have their own personal televisions and/or radios, which were given to them by the agency.

There is age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a large screen TV, VCR, basketball net, and weights. There is a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met OCCF-Emancipation's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) cite realistic goals and needs. However, the physical/health section is incomplete. The residents and their placement workers are participants in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports are current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focus on the goals in the NSP.

Both residents are receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

1. **OCCF Emancipation Institute Management completes the physical/health section of Needs and Services Plans.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

One resident attends an adult school program and the other resident was on summer break. Both files contain current report cards. One resident requires and has a current Individualized Education Plan. OCCF-Emancipation provides time for daily cognitive stimulation and offers incentives for residents who make appropriate use of the time. Residents feel that the agency is supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is a part of the OCCF-Emancipation program. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals and can cook the evening meal as a paid chore. Residents are required to complete household tasks and maintain good personal hygiene. They are encouraged to obtain employment and open a savings account and are assisted in this effort.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. They are familiarized with adult school and vocational training programs. One resident is employed and able to manage his own money.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

OCCF-Emancipation follows a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. The residents express satisfaction with the amount and types of activities they participate in during the week and on the weekends. The agency provides transportation to and from activities. As a reward for good behavior, residents can select a special activity for which the agency pays.

The residents have the opportunity to play table games, sports, read, and work at the computer at free times during the day.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of one case file was conducted for the resident prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

Court authorization for the resident prescribed psychotropic medication recently expired. However, OCCF-Emancipation has prepared a new authorization for the court's approval. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of medication and progress in therapy.

The medication distribution log is clear and organized. The distributor initials the date and time as medication is given to the child.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents indicated that they have private visits and telephone calls. They felt the rules were fair and reasonable, there are sufficient rewards for good behavior, and that they are treated with respect. The residents reported that they feel safe and that a sufficient number of staff is always in the home when residents are present.

The residents indicated that they have religious freedom, their individuality is respected, and that they are provided with adequate medical and dental care.

The residents are particularly pleased with the availability and quality of the food. They are provided with wholesome meals and a variety of snacks. They have access to the kitchen and are encouraged to take on the chore of cooking the evening meal. They indicated that they can eat whenever they want to, “just like if you were at home.” Their overall satisfaction with the agency was very good.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

OCCF-Emancipation provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The agency provides its residents with a fair minimum allowance. Residents can increase their weekly allowance by maintaining good behavior, making appropriate use

of their daily cognitive stimulation time, completing their weekly chores, and/or completing paid chores.

OCCF-Emancipation provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents have a life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Orange County Children's Foundation
Harbor City Children's Foundation
Carson Facility
24507 Marbella Avenue
Carson, CA 90745
(310) 834-1198
License No.: 198200917
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Orange County Children's Foundation operates four facilities, one under the name of Harbor City Children's Foundation, Carson (HCCF-Carson). The six bed home, located on a cul de sac, is attractive and blends well with other homes in the quiet neighborhood.

The interior of the home was neat, clean, and well organized. The décor provides excellent living conditions and a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are well furnished and decorated nicely. Resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire. Many of the residents have their own personal televisions and/or radios, given to them by the agency.

There is age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, an air hockey table, a large screen TV, VCR, basketball net, and weights. There is a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met the population criteria as outlined in HCCF-Carson's program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) cite realistic needs, goals and objectives with desirable behaviors spelled out in a specific and measurable manner. The therapist, each child, and the child's authorized representative signed each NSP.

The quarterly report for the resident who was placed at the facility more than ninety days prior, is current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focuses on the goals in the NSP.

Both residents are receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents were not enrolled in summer school and neither required an Individualized Education Plan. There is a current report card for one resident but the school records for the resident, who was placed less than sixty days prior, remain incomplete. This was discussed with management during the exit conference who stated that they were in contact with the social worker to get all of the resident's educational information prior to the beginning of the school year.

HCCF-Carson provides time for daily cognitive stimulation and offers incentives for residents who make appropriate use of the time. The residents feel that the agency is supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is a part of the program. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals and can cook the evening meal as a paid chore. Residents are required to complete household tasks and maintain good personal hygiene. Residents are encouraged to obtain employment and open a savings account and, are assisted in this effort.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. They are familiarized with adult school and vocational training programs. Neither resident is employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The HCCF-Carson follows a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. The residents expressed satisfaction with the amount and type of activities they participate in during the week and on the weekends. The agency provides transportation to and from activities. Residents are rewarded for good behavior with money and freedom to do a special activity.

During free time, the residents have the opportunity to engage in one of the many recreational activities at the agency. These include table (board) games, basketball, video games, reading books, and computer activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents on psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to agency administration, none of the residents are prescribed psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents indicated that they have privacy during visits and telephone calls. They felt the rules are fair and reasonable, there are sufficient rewards for good behavior, and that they treated with respect. The residents report that they felt safe and that staff is always present when residents are home.

The residents indicated that they have religious freedom, their individuality is respected, and that they are provided with adequate medical and dental care.

The residents are particularly pleased with the availability and quality of the food. They are provided with wholesome meals and a variety of snacks. They have access to the kitchen and are encouraged to take on the chore of cooking the evening meal. Their overall satisfaction with the agency was very good.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

HCCF-Carson provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The agency supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The agency provides its residents with a fair minimum allowance. Residents can increase their weekly allowance by maintaining good behavior, maintaining a 2.0 grade point average; making appropriate use of their daily cognitive stimulation time; completing their weekly chores; and/or completing paid chores.

The HCCF-Carson provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents have a life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.